(ii) Paper units using minimum 75% agro-residues such as bagasse, jute etc. are fully exempted from excise duty.

(iii) Paper mills using agro-residues and other non-conventional raw materials atleast upto 50% are charged excise duty at concessional rates.

(iv) Import of wood pulp and waste paper is freely allowed under the EXIM policy at a low rate of customs duty without any need for obtaining import licence.

Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute (CPPRI), Saharanpur, an autonomous body under Government and a premier institution for R&D in paper technology, has undertaken several projects to assist non-wood based pulp and paper industry. The Institute is also engaged in developing appropriate technology for chemical recovery plant for small pulp mills using non wood raw material.

Establishment of BICP

444. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices established;

(b) what are its functions;

(c) what is the number of reports published by the bureau so far; and

(d) whether Government propose to nominate non-official persons as advisors to the bureau?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices was established on 15th of January, 1970.

(b) Its functions are to—

(i) recommend fair nominative prices for goods and services under the administered pricing regime;

(ii) advise the Government on price deregulation;

(iii) tender advice on the various issues pertaining to cost reduction, improvement of Industrial efficiency and pricing problems in relation to Industrial costs;

(iv) recommend tariff levels and advise on tariff related issues;

(v) advise on pricing guidelines and flexible mechanism for the public utilities and infrastructural sectors; and

(vi) advise on resource efficiency developmental issues including international competitiveness.

(c) The bureau has published 17 reports so far out of 695 reports submitted to the Government.

(d) No, Sir.

Special fund for the development of indegenous technology

445. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute an Indian Research and Development Authority to provide special fund to develop indigenous technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, (DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) A proposal to set up an Industrial Research and Development Authority

to administer the R&D funds proposed to be raised from Industry has been mooted and is being examined.

Protection of small scale Industry

446. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any differences in approach on the issue of protection of the small scale sector between his Ministry and the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the areas of differences and final view on the policy towards promotion and protection of small scale sector;

(c) whether there is any change in the policy of reservation of certain items for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector by providing concessional credit giving tax relief and lowering excise, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of other policy measures proposed to help to promote growth of the industries in small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPTT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES)AND AGRO AND RURAL' INDUSTRIES (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Some of the policy measures announced on 6th August, 1991 are being operationalised by way of Plan proposals/ schemes such as:

(i) Promoting development of infrastructure facilities in rural and backward areas.

(ii) technology upgradation

(iii) setting up of new product-cum process development centres,

(iv) promotion of Entrepreneurship by expanding the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and strengthening of Entrepreneurial Development Institute.

(v) strengthening marketing support/ through promotion of ancil-lartsation and subcontracting.

Decline in export and domestic sale of Maruti Cars

447. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of loss suffered by Maruti Udyog during the first half of 1992 and till the end of 1992;

(b) what is the percentage of decline in the exports and domestic sale of Maruti cars during 1992 as compared to exports and domestic sales in 1991; and

(c) what are the main causes identified for the decline in exports and domestic sale and to what extent the hike in the prices of Maruti cars has contributed to the decline in sales both within and outside the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL) does not publish half yearly results of profit and loss.

(b) Domestic sales of Maruti cars during 1992-93 have not declined as compared to 1991-92. MUL expects to export around 16,000 vehicles during 1992-93 as compared to 22,921 vehicles, exported during 1991-92.

(c)The main reasons for the decline in exports are the general recession in the European market and the disintegration of the erstwhile Yugoslavia.